

The Advocate

VOL. VII. NO. 3.
\$1.00 A YEAR.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, JANUARY 16, 1895.

OFFICIAL STATE PAPER.

LEGISLATIVE SCHEMES.

NUMEROUS BILLS BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Some for Buncombe. Some in Good Faith.
—The Senate Wrestles With
Confirmations.

If the public should judge from the number of bills placed on the calendars of the two houses, it might conclude that the present legislature is a very industrious one. In fact, it seems that the old habit of introducing bills and then accusing the opposition of killing them off, has been growing, for there are bills pending in both branches that are no credit to any man or any party, yet judging by the title they appear to be good and necessary measures. However, while there are many of these "buncombe" bills before the legislature not worthy of notice, there are many others which are worthy of serious consideration.

THE HOUSE.

Two hours of the second day in the house were devoted to the hearing of the governor's message. It did not seem to be palatable to the members. While the clerk was reading it several attempts were made by members to get a vote on a motion to adjourn, but the speaker ruled them out of order, thereby demonstrating his ability to keep his hot-headed republican friends out of a very bad hole. Finally those who considered the message too severe on the republican party, either left the hall or set their teeth and listened. The message was referred to a committee which will set apart a day for the consideration of it. It is said that the consideration will consist of a severe roast for the author of the message.

ANTI GAMBLING BILLS.

The first four bills introduced in the house were for the prohibition of gambling and lotteries. The first was by Mr. Cabbison of Wyandotte, who was elected to a seat in the house in 1892 on an anti-lottery platform, but who was held responsible for the defeat of an anti-lottery bill in the session of 1893. In 1894 he begged for a renomination and pledged anew his support of such a measure. The Kansas City Law and Order league took the matter up and re-elected him on an agreement that he should champion their anti-lottery bill. So far he is keeping his pledge, and the bill is house bill No. 1. It is a great curiosity, yet it passed the house on Thursday, the third day of the session, under a suspension of the rules.

After the introduction of upward of 100 bills and the providing for a large number of the "faithful" republicans

who wanted to realize on the prosperity they had helped to bring about, by being put on the pay roll as employees of the house, on Friday the house adjourned to January 15.

THE SENATE.

Some discussion was indulged in by the senators on Thursday over a motion by Senator Taylor to substitute the Cabbison anti-lottery bill for his (Taylor's) anti-lottery bill No. 26. The motion was objected to on the grounds that the Cabbison bill was a piece of boy's play, as shown by one section, which provides that it shall not be necessary to establish the fact that a lottery exists in order to convict a person who sells lottery tickets, but the mere fact that the ticket was sold shall be sufficient. It practically means that a person may be convicted without evidence. It was charged that this bill was being rushed through to prevent the passage of some more effective bill.

Populist senators did not believe in laying anything in the way of a republican measure when it appeared that the author was trying, for once in his life, to keep his pledge. Republicans ought to be supported before they yielded to bad influences and again abandoned their good purposes. "Senators ought not to question the constitutionality of a bill which a republican lawyer had framed while he was on his prayer bones and in a contrite frame of mind." But Senator Taylor's motion was lost.

Senator Brown moved that a senate committee on irrigation be created, and he was supported by most of the republican members. The Populists thought the proper place for irrigation matters to be referred was the committee on agriculture, and Brown's proposition was lost.

CONFIRMATIONS.

Friday and Saturday the senate spent a great deal of time in executive session, acting on the governor's appointments. The confirmations were as follows:

S. H. Snider, superintendent of insurance; S. M. Scott, member board of public works; S. F. Williams, live stock sanitary commissioner; L. Van Vooris, manager State Soldiers' home; C. E. Goodyear and C. B. Hoffman, regents State Agricultural college; H. Clark, regent State university; Walter N. Allen, member board of charities; A. J. Davis, adjutant general; W. H. Sears, brigadier general; besides a lot of new members of the state board of health and police commissioners of Topeka, Atchison, Wichita, Leavenworth and Ft. Scott.

SENATE COMMITTEES.

The senate committees, which are practically the same as last session, are as follows, the first named of each committee being chairman:

Judiciary—Dennison, Dillard, O'Bryan,

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IN WASHINGTON.

HOW CLEVELAND BOUGHT THE VOTES OF CONGRESSMEN.

And How Gresham's Heart Bleeds for the
Ambassadors—Comments By
Mrs. Diggs.

Special Correspondence.

When Representative Sibley in his speech on the currency bill declared that "a member sitting not ten feet away had told him that President Cleveland had offered a representative a bribe of a collectorship of revenue for his vote on the repeal of the Sherman act," it was extremely funny to see the pained surprise and consternation of members of the house. Why Mr. Sibley's statement should have created any sensation is not clear to my mind since nearly everybody believes, and a great many people know, that President Cleveland indulged in unblushing bribery in the way of bestowing offices to carry his scheme to strike down the monetary use of silver. Even so, in the case of this currency bill which of course is a Cleveland-Wall-street affair, nearly everybody believes that the president will make use of similar methods to carry out his purposes. But one would have thought a hornet's nest had broken loose when Mr. Sibley arraigned the president. Mr. Outhwaite capered around for all the world like a cross old hen whose young brood had been assailed, and proposed to make Mr. Sibley tell instantly just "who had put a padlock on his lips." Mr. Sibley had just declared that patience with the administration had ceased to be a virtue and that he did not propose to longer suffer his lips to be padlocked. Mr. Outhwaite discovered in a few seconds that Mr. Sibley isn't the kind of a man who can be made to do things unless he wants to. The administration forces are working like beavers to secure the passage of the currency bill in its present form, but the dislike entertained for Mr. Cleveland is spreading and intensifying every day. A majority of democrats will vote against the measure simply to array themselves against the man whom they once idolized. It is quite easy to see that the president is less despised by republican members than by many of his own party.

Among the minor filchings of the public treasure the scheme to raise the salaries of our ambassadors will doubtless succeed. The poor fellows who took their pay for fooling the voters politically during the campaign in foreign consularships, have gone on a strike for higher wages. The strikers have secured the services of Secretary Gresham

as their mouthpiece, and he has set his chin quivering and his mouth quivering while he recites that "the position of the ambassadors is such as to warrant immediate action of congress." People generally don't believe that congress can act "immediately" about anything—but that's a mistaken notion. In any little matter of serving the well-off fellows, congress can skip off as friskily as a colt on a frosty morning, provided they don't feel that they ought to make believe that they are working real hard and "getting a half loaf of legislation when they can't get a whole one." Several of our ambassadors only receive the beggarly salary of \$17,500 per year, with perquisites running up into several thousands more and they have sent word back to Mr. Gresham that \$50,000 per year is barely sufficient to maintain the dignity of the great nation which they represent." Mr. Gresham lets on that he believes that these useless popinjays really earn their salary and deserve more. So he will doubtless work the case for his striking millionaire ambassadors far more successfully than did Mr. Debs for the railway laborers. The cute feature of this strike is the fact that the luxurious aristocrats have been patterning after the working fellows, they have been conferencing and combining, have organized a union; they have held two conferences abroad, one in London and one in Paris, and the subject discussed was the hardships of their ministerial careers and how to induce Uncle Samuel to better provide for them. Thomas F. Bayard, ambassador to the court of St. James, held three conferences with Secretary Gresham while here, all on this most distressful topic. As proof of the inadequacy of salary in the case of Mr. Eastie who broods over our interests at the capital of France, here is an itemized bill of a portion of his expense for one year:

House rent in Paris, per year.....	\$12,000
Ambassador's coach and livery.....	5,000
Diplomatic dinners and entertainments.....	3,000
One ball per annum.....	2,000
Entertaining American naval officers.....	2,000
Attending state department functions.....	1,000
Official presentations.....	2,000
Total.....	\$37,000

Just run your eyes over that, all you "redeemers of Kansas," and remember that as long as you keep either of the old parties in power, you will keep up just such enormous crimes as these consular extravaganzas. I say crimes because it is criminal, and nothing less, to indulge in senseless snobbery and magnificent display, while any number of our national family is destitute, homeless and wretched.

Last Friday a little child starved to death in a house under the very shadow of our great capitol dome. It had been without food or fire for three days. God have mercy on these men at the capitol!

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